

MAY 08 2006

Amendment and Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Jason D. Hanzlik et al.

Serial No.: 10/730,698

Filed: December 8, 2003

Docket No.: 10395US01

Title: TAPE REEL ASSEMBLY WITH WEAR RESISTANT DRIVEN TEETH

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 4, 12-13, 19-20, and 22.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 10, and 17 as follows:

1.(Currently Amended) A tape reel assembly for a data storage tape cartridge comprising:
a hub defining a tape winding surface that includes a first end and an opposing second end; ~~and the hub including~~
driven teeth projecting outwardly relative to one of the opposing ends of the tape winding surface and defining an engagement surface;
wherein the driven teeth are formed from a polymer including a lubricating additive.

2.(Original) The tape reel assembly of claim 1, wherein the polymer includes up to 25% by weight lubricating additive.

3.(Currently Amended) The tape reel assembly of claim 1, wherein the tape reel assembly further includes:
a flange ~~including the driven teeth, the flange~~ coupled to and extending in a radial fashion from an end of the hub.

4.(Cancelled)

5.(Original) The tape reel assembly of claim 1, wherein the lubricating additive is selected from the group consisting of silicone, wax, polytetrafluoroethylene, fluoropolymer, fluorochemical, and oil.

6.(Original) The tape reel assembly of claim 1, wherein the driven teeth are formed from a polymer including a glass-filled polycarbonate and the lubricating additive.

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7.(Original) The tape reel assembly of claim 6, wherein the polycarbonate is 20% glass-filled and the lubricating additive is polytetrafluoroethylene added to the polymer at approximately 5% by weight.

8.(Original) The tape reel assembly of claim 1, wherein the lubricating additive is added to the polymer in the range of 2-10% by weight.

9.(Original) The tape reel assembly of claim 1, wherein the lubricating additive is added to the polymer at approximately 5% by weight.(Original)

10.(Currently Amended) A data storage tape cartridge comprising:
a housing defining an enclosed region and an opening communicating with the enclosed region;
at least one tape reel assembly rotatably disposed within the enclosed region and including:
a hub defining a tape-winding surface,
a flange coupled to and extending in a radial fashion from an end of the hub, the flange including driven teeth defining an engagement surface; and
a storage tape wound about the tape-winding surface;
wherein the driven teeth are exposed within the opening in the housing upon final assembly and are formed from a polymer including a lubricating additive.

11.(Original) The data storage tape cartridge of claim 10, wherein the polymer includes up to 25% by weight lubricating additive.

12-13.(Cancelled)

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14.(Original) The data storage tape cartridge of claim 10, wherein the lubricating additive is selected from the group consisting of silicone, wax, polytetrafluoroethylene, fluoropolymer, fluorochemical, and oil.

15.(Original) The data storage tape cartridge of claim 10, wherein the driven teeth are formed from a polymer including a glass-filled polycarbonate and the lubricating additive.

16.(Original) The data storage tape cartridge of claim 15, wherein the polycarbonate is 20% glass-filled and the lubricating additive is polytetrafluoroethylene added to the polymer at approximately 5% by weight.

17.(Currently Amended) A method of fabricating a tape reel assembly for a data storage tape cartridge comprising:

providing a polymer including a lubricating additive;

forming driven teeth defining an engagement surface from the polymer; and

generating a hub to include a tape winding surface that defines opposing ends and an integrally formed lower flange, the hub having the driven teeth integrally formed thereon;

wherein the driven teeth project outwardly relative to one of the opposing ends of the tape winding surface.

18.(Original) The method of claim 17, wherein providing a polymer includes providing a polymer including up to 25% by weight lubricating additive.

19-20.(Cancelled)

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21.(Original) The method of claim 17, wherein generating a hub includes generating a hub including an integrally formed lower flange, the lower flange having the driven teeth integrally formed thereon.

22.(Cancelled)

23.(Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the lubricating additive is selected from the group consisting of silicone, wax, polytetrafluoroethylene, fluoropolymer, fluorochemical, and oil.

24.(Original) The method of claim 17, wherein providing a polymer includes providing a polymer having 20% glass-filled polycarbonate and approximately 5% polytetrafluoroethylene by weight.

25.(Original) The method of claim 17, wherein providing a polymer includes providing a polymer compound.

26.(Original) The method of claim 17, wherein providing a polymer includes providing a polymer blend.